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BOOK REVIEWS.

GENEALOGY of the Browne, Cochran, Brooke, Neale and Bennett Families. By Dr. Bennett Bernard Browne, 1218 Madison avenue, Baltimore, Md. This is an interesting account, on a single large sheet, of the families of Maryland named, with a description of arms, etc., truly a *multum in parvo*.

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH AND HIS CRITICS. A lecture before the Society for Geographical and Historical Study, of Richmond College, 1893. By Charles Poindexter, Acting Librarian of the Virginia State Library, I. L. Hill Printing Co., Richmond, Va. For sale by West, Johnston & Co., of Richmond, Va. This is an exceedingly valuable contribution to the literature of our early colonial period. Those who question the veracity of Captain John Smith depend chiefly upon a publication in 1608 called "The Relation of Virginia," which has been shown to omit some things stated in Smith's later and fuller "History," and to contain other things not in accord in particulars of time and place. Mr. Poindexter shows that no reliance is to be placed on the "Relation," as it appeared under different names, and was "doctored" to suit the views of the ubiquitous editor, J. H., as he frankly states in the preface to the third edition. In my opinion Mr. Poindexter makes good his contention; though at the same time I am not prepared to state that there is any invincible obstacle to accepting the facts stated in this earlier account. Omissions amount to little, and I have seen greater discrepancies in accounts of battles of our late war than can be ascribed to the facts in the Smith controversy. Smith was evidently a man of strong feeling, and Wingfield, Percy, and the rest of the early settlers were, I am sure, able and gallant soldiers. This recognition of others' merits does not reduce the consequence of Smith. Powhatan was both kind and cruel, and in Smith's letter of 1616 to Queen Anne, while he mentions his rescue by Pocahontas, he refers to the kindness of Powhatan. The "hypercriticism" of the present day often meets with the experience of Dr. Neill, who, after impeaching the descent of the Bolling family from Pocahontas, candidly admitted his error in the Magazine of American History. In this connection it may be of interest to state that several months ago the Editor found on record in Surry Co. a deed from Thomas Rolfe to William Corker for 150 acres "between Smith's fort old field and the Divill's Woodyard Swampe, being due unto the said Mr. Rolfe by gift from the Indyan Kinge." Dated 10 June, 1654.